I thought you might be interested...

VICKY RIDEOUT

PUBLIC HEALTH PROGRAM

DIRECTOR, ENTERTAINMENT MEDIA AND

Chairman Hundt Hape all is well with

you.

FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION OFFICE OF SECRETARY

Monitoring and Assessment of the Industry-Proposed V-Chip Television **Rating System**

A Research Project of the Kaiser Family Foundation

February, 1997

The Kaiser Family Foundation, an independent health care philanthropy, has commissioned two new studies to monitor and assess the implementation of the new television ratings system unveiled by the television industry in December, 1996.

The project will include a television content analysis and a major public opinion survey. The content analysis, which will analyze more than 1,000 hours of network and cable television programming, will be one of the largest studies of television content ever conducted. The public opinion surveys will assess awareness of the ratings system, as well as how useful parents find the system and how it has or has not affected viewing.

Both pieces of research will be completed prior to the conclusion of the industry's stated ten-month "trial period" for the current rating system. The Foundation will make the results of the research available at that time to members of the industry, policymakers and the public to assist in their evaluation of the new system.

The content study will be conducted for the Foundation by researchers at the University of California, Santa Barbara, and will analyze the extent to which the rating categories differentiate meaningfully between different types of content, as well as the consistency with which the ratings framework is applied across different programs and networks. A composite week of television programming (7 a.m. to 11 p.m.) will be sampled for each of ten major networks or channels (the four major commercial broadcast networks, PBS, an independent broadcast channel, three basic cable channels, and one premium channel). As a supplement, the evening prime-time hours (8 p.m. to 11 p.m.) on the channels with the highest viewership will be oversampled with an additional two weeks of content. The television programming will be subjected to systematic content analysis based on a coding framework devised by expert researchers for this project. The coding observations will be rigorously monitored to ensure scientifically acceptable levels of reliability and objectivity. No. of Copies rec'd List ABCDE

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FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION
OFFICE OF SECRETARY

February 22, 1997

The Honorable Reed Hundt Federal Communications Commission 1919 M Street, NW Washington, DC 20554

Commissioner Hundt:

I am writing to urge the Federal Communications Commission to hold a public hearing as part of its review of the television industry's ratings system.

The National Association for Family & Community Education and its affiliate, FCE-Illinois State Association, as well as the Lee County Homemakers Education Association are grass-roots organizations which have been actively involved in family issues for the past 60 plus years. We are very concerned that the family issue of the recently implemented television ratings system does not address the needs of parents.

The questions generated by the current age-based telvision ratings system deserve a public hearing. We urge you to hold such a hearing soon on this issue which is so important to families in America today.

Sincerely,

Barbary Dhyhout 1121 W 3rd SE Lefore, De 61021-2719

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FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION
OFFICE OF SECRETARY

February <u>&</u> 1997

The Honorable Reed Hundt Federal Communications Commission 1919 M Street, NW Washington, DC 20554

Commissioner Hundt:

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Sincerely,

Mr Mrs Philip Cornwell

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MAR 1 0 1997

FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION
OFFICE OF SECRETARY

February <u>19</u>, 1997

The Honorable Reed Hundt Federal Communications Commission 1919 M Street, NW Washington, DC 20554

Commissioner Hundt:

I am writing to urge the Federal Communications Commission to hold a public hearing as part of its review of the television industry's ratings system.

The National Association for Family & Community Education and its affiliate, FCE-Illinois State Association, the Lee County Homemakers Education Association, as well as the Paw Paw United Methodist Women are grass-roots organizations which have been actively involved in family issues for the past 60 plus years. We are very concerned that the family issue of the recently implemented television ratings system does not address the needs of parents.

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Sincerely,

Caperta L. Yalited

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MAR 1 0 1997

February 21, 1997

FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION
OFFICE OF SECRETARY

The Honorable Reed Hundt Federal Communications Commission 1919 M Street, NW Washington, DC 20554

Mary Lee Rosenkrans

Commissioner Hundt:

I am writing to urge the Federal Communications Commission to hold a public hearing as part of its review of the television industry's ratings system.

The National Association for Family & Community Education and its affiliate, FCE-Illinois State Association, the Lee County Homemakers Education Association, as well as the Paw Paw United Methodist Women are grass-roots organizations which have been actively involved in family issues for the past 60 plus years. We are very concerned that the family issue of the recently implemented television ratings system does not address the needs of parents.

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Sincerely,

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February <u>21</u>, 1997

FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION
OFFICE OF SECRETARY

The Honorable Reed Hundt Federal Communications Commission 1919 M Street, NW Washington, DC 20554

Parline Manughlin

Commissioner Hundt:

I am writing to urge the Federal Communications Commission to hold a public hearing as part of its review of the television industry's ratings system.

The National Association for Family & Community Education and its affiliate, FCE-Illinois State Association, the Lee County Homemakers Education Association, as well as the Paw Paw United Methodist Women are grass-roots organizations which have been actively involved in family issues for the past 60 plus years. We are very concerned that the family issue of the recently implemented television ratings system does not address the needs of parents.

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Sincerely,

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MAR 1 0 1997

February 21, 1997

FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION
OFFICE OF SECRETARY

The Honorable Reed Hundt Federal Communications Commission 1919 M Street, NW Washington, DC 20554

Commissioner Hundt:

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Sincerely,

Margaret The my



Room 814

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MAR 1 0 1997

February, 1997

FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION OFFICE OF SECRETARY

The Honorable Ed Lubetzke
Federal Communications Commission

1919 M Street, NW Washington, DC 20554

Commissioner Lubetzku

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We are writing to urge the Federal Communications Commission to hold a public hearing as part of its review of the television industry's ratings system.

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Sincerely,

Ginny Smith



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MAR 1 0 1997

FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION
OFFICE OF SECRETARY

February 2/1, 1997

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The Honorable Reed Hundt Federal Communications Commission 1919 M Street, NW Washington, DC 20554

Commissioner Hundt:

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Sincerely,

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February <u>23</u>, 1997

MAR 1 0 1997

FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION
OFFICE OF SECRETARY

432 Penrose Rd. Dixon, IL 6/021

The Honorable Reed Hundt
Federal Communications Commission
1919 M Street, NW
Washington, DC 20554

Commissioner Hundt:

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Sincerely,

Finas Schott

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MAR 1 0 1997

FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION
OFFICE OF SECRETARY

February <u>7</u>, 1997

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The Honorable Reed Hundt Federal Communications Commission 1919 M Street, NW Washington, DC 20554

Commissioner Hundt:

I am writing to urge the Federal Communications Commission to hold a public hearing as part of its review of the television industry's ratings system.

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Sincerely,

Jarole Englehert

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February <u>1</u>, 1997

FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION
OFFICE OF SECRETARY

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The Honorable Reed Hundt Federal Communications Commission 1919 M Street, NW Washington, DC 20554

Commissioner Hundt:

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Sincerely,

Lolu Pierce

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FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION
OFFICE OF SECRETARY

February 2/, 1997

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The Honorable Reed Hundt Federal Communications Commission 1919 M Street, NW Washington, DC 20554

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Sincerely,

Fearl Rhoads

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February 21, 1997

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FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION
OFFICE OF SECRETARY

The Honorable Reed Hundt Federal Communications Commission 1919 M Street, NW Washington, DC 20554

Commissioner Hundt:

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Sincerely,

Gladys Posette

The North Carolina

Extension Homemakers Association, Inc.

February 25, 1997

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MAR 1 0 1997

The Honorable Red Hundt Federal Communication Commission 1919 M Street, N.W. Washington, D.C. 20554 FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION
OFFICE OF SECRETARY

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Commission Ruel Hundt,

I am writing to sage the Federal Communications

Commission to hold a gentle having as port of its

review of the tilevision industry ratios, system.

I am a number of the Moth Carolina Extension

Homemaker Association. On organization has been
actively involved in family issues for the past

We spare.

On a Mother and Franches Then I am very concerned

That the family issues of the recently implemental

television rating system also not adoleurs the

much of parents or grandparents or anyone or ho is

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I support the content-based television rating

system using V (violence), S (see) and I (language)

signifole to indicate the content of a program.

Severy P. ahoda

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FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION

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MAR 1 0 1997 February, 1997 OFFICE OF SECRETARY Rela Hundt The Honorable Federal Communications Commission 1919 M Street, NW Washington, FC 20554 Commissioner Hundt We are writing to urge the Federal Communications Commission to hold a public hearing as part of its review of the television industry's ratings system. The National Association for Family & Community Education and its affiliate, State Association, are grass-roots organizations which have been actively involved in family issues for the past 60 years. We are very concerned that the family issue of the recently implemented television ratings system does not address the needs of parents. The questions generated by the current age-based television ratings system deserve a public hearing. We urge you to hold such a hearing soon on this issue which is so important to families in America today. Sincerely, Barbaratitypatrick 3107 Manoe et Indels, In 91218

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The North Carolina

Extension Homemakers Association. Inc.

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February 1997

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FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION
OFFICE OF SECRETARY

The Honorable Pond Sunty
Federal Communications Commission
1919 M Street, NW
Washington, D.C. 20554

Commissioner Reed Hundt:

We are writing to urge the Federal Communications Commission to hold a public hearing as part of its review of the television industry's rating system.

The National Association for Family and Community Education and its affiliate, North Carolina Extension Homemakers Association, are grass-roots organizations which have been actively involved in family issues for the past 60 years. We are concerned that the family issue of the recently implemented television rating system does not address the needs of parents.

The questions generated by the current age-based television rating system deserve a public hearing. We urge you to hold such a hearing soon on this issue which is so important to families in America today.

Sincerely,

Catherine VIII, Plemmon

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A supplement for local bulletins & newsletters from the Americ

Sex on TV study parallels AFA findings

A recent "landmark" study of sexual content during what was once known as TV's "family hour" – 8 to 9 p.m. Eastern Time – parallels what AFA has reported in recent years. The networks may be reducing the amount of violence on television, but they are replacing it with more and more sex.

Findings from "Sex, Kids and the Family Hour," a study by Children NOW and the Henry J. Kaiser Family Foundation include:

- ➤ 75% of family hour shows on network TV contain sexual behavior or verbal references to sex.
- ➤ There is an average of 8.5 incidents of sexual behavior in an hour of family programming.
- ➤ In 1976, 26% of family-hour programs contained sexual behavior covering a range from kissing to intercourse, compared to 61% in 1996.
- ➤ Only 6% of shows with sexual content emphasized sexual risks and responsibilities.
- ➤ Most of the talk about sex was in sitcoms in the form of double entendres and jokes about physical traits.

Although AFA monitoring techniques and criteria differ from the new study, findings indicate the same proliferation of sexual content. AFA monitoring of prime-time (8-11 p.m. ET) programming last spring found an average of 11.89 sex incidents per hour on NBC, ABC, CBS and Fox networks.

Washington Times, 12/12/96

Jesus – the choice of champions!

Over recent centuries, America has surpassed all other nations in education, science, medicine and other fields. Founding Fathers cited what they believed to be a factor in such accomplishment.

"It is certain...that human science and religion have kept company together and greatly assisted each other's progress," observed John Witherspoon, signer of the Declaration of Independence.

Benjamin Rush, another signer, wrote, "I believe that the greatest discoveries have been made by Christian philosophers, and there is the most knowledge in those countries where there is the most Christianity."

New TV ratings meaningless

By DR.DONALD E. WILDMON

AFA President

The new TV ratings are a farce and a slap in the face of the viewing public. Suppose that a pornographer showed up at your door with a package addressed to your 14-year-old daughter. You go to the door and receive the package. You aren't told what is in the package, only that the pornographer has determined that your daughter is old enough to open the package and peruse the contents.

No way, you say. Well, that is precisely what the TV industry has just done in deciding on a new rating system for their programs. Here are the new ratings:

TV-Y Appropriate for all children. Specifically designed for a very young audience, including children ages two to six. This program is not expected to frighten younger children.

TV-Y7 Designed for children age seven and above. More appropriate for children able to distinguish between make-believe and reality. May include mild physical or comedic violence.

TV-G Contains little or no violence, no strong language and little or no sexual dialog or situations.

TV-PG The program may contain coarse language, limited violence, some suggestive dialog and situations. The theme itself may call for parental guidance.

TV-14 This program may contain sophisticated themes, sexual content, strong language and intense violence.

TV-M May contain profane language, graphic violence and explicit sexual content.

While pretending to provide help to parents, the industry has done exactly the opposite. They have told parents, for instance, that programs rated TV-Y, TV-Y7, TV-G, TV-PG, and TV-14 are suitable for kids and youth to view. They have made that decision for parents.

In none of the categories will the industry tell you why a given program earned a particular rating, nor will they give any content analysis. Not a clue. And get this – the person who produces the program is the one who will give it a rating! There will be absolutely no consistent perspective used in the ratings since hundreds, even thousands, of different individuals will be doing the ratings.



One thing this rating system w

It will absolve the networkel

responsibility for the content of their programs.

One thing this rating system will do well, and one thing only. It will absolve the networks and Hollywood of any and all responsibility for the content of their programs. They can put on anything and everything – which they will – and absolve themselves by saying, "We warned you in advance. The program was rated. We accept no responsibility."

It is going to be interesting to see how the religious community will respond to this next step toward total degradation.



3180 Croel Road Ionia, MI. 48846

FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION OFFICE OF SECRETARY

February 21, 1997

DOCKET FILE COPY ORIGINAL The Honorable Reed Hundt Federal Communications Commission 1919 M Street, NW Washington, DC 20554

Dear Chairman Hundt:

I am writing to address the issue of the television ratings system as proposed by the television industry recently. I firmly believe that, while great strides have been made in giving parents tools to better monitor their children's television viewing, more work is needed. Because of this, I urge the Federal Communications Commission to hold a public hearing as part of its review of the ratings system.

As a member of the Michigan Association for Family and Community Education, and its affiliate, the National Association for Family and Community Education, I have been very interested in the progress made toward improved television for our children. believe that television could be a wonderful educational tool for children to learn about other cultures and the world, but that too much emphasis has been placed on the entertainment and commercial aspects of television.

Because the focus of television has been primarily on entertainment, it has become necessary for parents to closely monitor their children's viewing so that programs that contain objectionable content are not welcomed into their home. strides that have been made (the V-chip, and the 3 hour rule) have helped, and a ratings system based on content would give parents one more tool to assist them in their struggle to bring up healthy children in the '90s and beyond. While the age based system begins to address the problem, it does not go far enough toward fully informing parents of the program content, and it leaves parents relying on the television industry to decide what age should be allowed to watch certain programs.

Please consider a public hearing on this important issue before a final decision is made. I believe it is necessary to hear from a wide variety of people to give parents the best system available for their needs.

Sincerely,

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National Association for Family & Community Education

FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION
OFFICE OF SECRETARY
June Kamibayashi Tometary

June Kamibayashi 1324 Kina St. Kailua, HI 96734 (808) 262-1986

February 20, 1997

The Honorable Commissioner Federal Communications Commission 1919 M St., NW Washingtion D.C., 20554

Dear Commissioner,

I am writing to urge the Federal Communications Commission to hold a public hearing as part of its review of the television industry's ratings system.

The National Association for Family & Community Education and its affiliate, Hawaii FCE Association, is a grass roots organization actively involved in family issues for 60 years. We are very concerned that the family issue of the recently implemented television ratings system does not address the needs of parents.

The questions generated by the current age-based television ratings system deserve a public hearing. We urge you to hold a hearing soon on this issue, which is so very important to families in America today.

Sincerely,

June K. Tom

Hawaii FCE Vice-president

June of Jom

National Association For Family & Community Education

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MAR 1 0 1997

FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION OFFICE OF SECRETARY

The Honorable Reed Hundt
Federal Communications Commission
1919 M Street, NW
Washington, D.C. 20554

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Commissioner Hundt:

We are writing to urge the Federal Communications Commission to hold a public hearing as part of its review of the television industry's ratings system.

The National Association for Family and Community Education and its affiliate <u>Illinois</u> State Association, are grass-roots organizations which have been actively involved in family issues for the past 60 years. We are very concerned that the family issue of the recently implemented television ratings system does not address the needs of parents.

The questions generated by the current age-based television ratings system deserve a public hearing. We urge you to hold such a hearing soon on this issue which is so important to families in America today.

Mary Ellen Keegan

Mary Ellen Keegan, President

FCE-Illinois

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National Association For Family & Community Education

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FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION
OFFICE OF SECRETARY

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February, 1997

The Honorable Concession Federal Communications Commission 1919 M Street, NW Washington, DC 20554

Commissioner Lubersky

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Sincerely, Marion Mulchan



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FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION OFFICE OF SECRETARY

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The Honorable <u>Reel Hundt</u>
Federal Communications Commission 1919 M Street, NW Washington, FC 20554

of its review of the television industry's ratings system.

February, 1997

Commissioner / Junat	·
We are writing to urge the Federal Communications Commission to hold	a public hearing as part

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The questions generated by the current age-based television ratings system deserve a public hearing. We urge you to hold such a hearing soon on this issue which is so important to families in America today. We are a group of FCE Members.

Sincerely, Thanken Mergan Imogene I wothaker Vivian Hegman Foris Minium Marylla Min Failing McColm Housie M. Moury Horneyan Lewin Lela walden

Wildred Moss